

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-04 INR-05

LAB-01 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-01

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 DRC-01

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R 161850Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3251

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 24427

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, FR, PO

SUBJECT: FRENCH SOCIALISTS AND PORTUGAL

1. SOURCE CLOSE TO SOCIALIST PARTY (PSF) FIRST SECRETARY F. MITTERRAND AND MEMBER OF PSF DIRECTORATE TOLD LABATT THAT PSF HAS BEEN CONCERNED BY DOMINANT INFLUENCE COMMUNISTS (PCP) ARE EXERCISING IN PORTUGAL AND APPARENT INABILITY OF PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS TO CONSTITUTE BALANCING FORCE EVEN IF TIED IN COMMON FRONT WITH PCP. PSF ANXIOUS TO HELP BUT ITS OWN REQUIREMENTS AT THIS TIME OF RAPID EXPANSION OF MEMBERSHIP AND MAJOR EFFORT TO RE-STRUCTURE PARTY LEAVE FEW RESOURCES AVAILABLE "EVEN FOR SUCH TROUBLESOME SITUATION AS IT HAS DEVELOPED IN LISBON."

2. NEVERTHELESS PSF WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO HELP ESPECIALLY THROUGH TRAINING OF POTENTIAL PSP CADRES FROM AMONG THE PORTUGUESE IN FRANCE SCHEDULED TO RETURN HOME.

3. SOURCE REVEALED IN CONFIDENCE THAT PSP HAS
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COMMUNICATED TO PSF ITS OWN CONCERN ABOUT PCP IN-

FLUENCE AND "STALINIST" TACTICS WHICH CROWD PSP
OUT OF ANY SIGNIFICANT ROLE AND CREATE THE RISK OF
UNFAVORABLE POPULAR REACTION LIKELY TO BE EXPLOITED
BY THE RIGHT.

4. ACCORDING TO SOURCE THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS
APPEALED TO THEIR FRENCH CAMARADES" TO ASK
THE PCF TO INTERVENE WITH THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS
TO SUGGEST A SOFTER LINE, LESS AGGRESSIVE PURSUIT
OF KEY POSITIONS IN GOP AND MORE CIRCUMSCRIBED PUBLIC
PRESENCE. PSF IS READY TO OBLIGE ESPECIALLY SINCE
THEY FEEL THAT PCF ALSO SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT
POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES NOT ONLY FOR PORTUGAL BUT
FRANCE AS WELL OF ANY PCP "STALINIST" BEHAVIOR.
HOWEVER SOURCE DOUBTS THAT PCF HAS ANY REAL
INFLUENCE ON PCP OR THAT THE LATTER WOULD BE AT
ALL RECEPTIVE TO THIS KIND OF ADVICE SINCE ACCORDING
TO ALL INDICATIONS PCP HAS EMERGED FROM OVERTHROW
OF CAITANO REGIME AS THE MOST STALINIST COMMUNIST
PARTY IN EUROPE TODAY. SOURCE REMARKED THAT
MITTERRAND'S PRIVATE COMMENT ON PSP SOLICITATION
ABOVE WAS THAT THE PSP IS EVEN WEAKER THAN HE HAD
THOUGHT.
IRWIN

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Message Attributes

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